

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE NO. 03-119  
RE: JUDGE DAVID M. GOODING

CASE NO. SC04-133

### **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE**

The Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (the "JQC"), served a Notice of Investigation on Circuit Court Judge David M. Gooding ("Judge Gooding") pursuant to JQC Rule 6(b) on October 23, 2003. The investigation is based on information received regarding Judge Gooding's conduct during his 2002 campaign for the circuit court judgeship in Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties, Florida which he now holds. The JQC served and filed a Notice of Formal Charges on February 5, 2004.

The JQC has now entered into a Stipulation with Judge Gooding in which he admits that during the course of his campaign he incurred campaign expenses at a time when his campaign account did not have sufficient funds to cover those expenses, and after the campaign he loaned funds to his campaign and deposited such funds into his campaign account after the deadline for doing so had passed. This conduct violated Florida Statutes §§ 106.11 and 106.08 and Canons 1, 2, 6B and 7.

Judge Gooding has admitted the foregoing, accepts full responsibility, and acknowledges that such conduct should not have occurred.

The JQC has concluded and therefore finds and recommends that the interests of justice, the public welfare and sound judicial administration will be well served by a public reprimand of Judge Gooding.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard C. McFarlain  
Chair, Florida Judicial Qualifications  
Commission  
305 South Gadsden Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
(850) 222-2107

and

Thomas C. MacDonald, Jr.  
Florida Bar No. 049318  
General Counsel  
Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission  
1904 Holly Lane  
Tampa Florida 33629  
(813) 254-9871 (Telephone)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Findings and Recommendations of Discipline** has been furnished to U.S. Mail, to **Rutledge R. Liles, Esquire**, Liles Gavin & Costantino, 225 Water Street, Suite 1500, Jacksonville, Florida 32202-5148 this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November 2004.

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Attorney



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